could not be affected because of non availability of willing officers. However some transfers are always carried out in the interest of service and officers from rest of the country are posted to Assam Circle.

(d) No, action in view of reasons indicated in (c) above.

Meeting of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories

2748. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories has been organised in New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the issues discussed in the meeting and the suggestions received; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) According to the information received from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, a Conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union territories was held at New Delhi on 20th November, 1996. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister and addressed by the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Parliamntary Affairs. Besides the Chief Secretaries of States/Union territories, senior officers of some selected Central Ministries/Departments also participated in discussions. Following issues were discussed in the Conference:—

(i) How to ensure a responsive administration accountable to the people and capable of effective redressal of public grievances;

(ii) How to clean up the civil servives from within by various measures of internal organisation and amendment of rules; and

(iii) How to make the civil service more committed to the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

The Conference of Chief Secretaries, inter alia, recommended that the approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution, and deal ruthlessly with the nexus with criminals and unscrupulous elements. It requires the concerted efforts of politicians, public servants and all stakeholders in civic society. The Conference also recommended that the Government of India and State Governments should draw up a Charter of Ethics and Civil Service Code for the civil service which is bassed on the fundamental principles of the Constitution of India such as secularism, equality, impartiality, social justice, attention to the needs of the weaker sections, rule of law, etc. This code should regulate the role of the legislators and the relationship between civil servants and politicians. The conclusions of the Conference are being followed up with the State Governments.

Extremist Group in North East

2749. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of extremist groups and their activities in the North East of the country;

(b) if so, the names of those groups and the areas they are operating both inside and outside the country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the State of Meghalaya, being peaceful, is also used as a meeting place of those extremist groups; and

(f) if so, the measures taken to counter such meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed. (*see* below)

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) A close watch is maintained on the activities of such groups and situation reviewed from time to time at various levels. The State Police, the Central Para Military Forces and the Army are alerted whenever any specific information is received.

Statement

The major extremist groups operating inside the North Eastern States and outside the country and the areas of their operation are indicated below:—

Name of extremist organisation	Area of operation
1. National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isac Swu faction (NSCN-I)	(i) The main activities of NSCN (I) are confined to Nagaland, Manipur and parts of Assam. (ii) Outside the ocuntry NSCN (I) has been known to maintain camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar. They have also been procuring arms & ammunition through clandestine sources in Thailand,
2. National Socialist Council of Nagaland Khaplang faction (NSCN-K)	(i) The main activities of NSCN (K) are in Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. (ii) Outside the country, NSCN (K) is active in Myanmar.
3. United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA)	(i) ULFA's activities are mainly confined to Assam. (ii) Outside the country, ULFA is known to be having camps in Bangladesh and Bhutan.
4. Bodo Security Force (BdSF)/ National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB)	(i) BdSF/NDFB is mainly active in Assam. (ii) BdSF/NDFB are known to be maintaining camps in Bhutan and have linkages in Bangladesh also.

Name of extremist organisation	Area of operation
5. Meitei extremist groups, viz, Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL)	(i) All these Meitei extremist groups are mainly operating in Manipur.
	(ii) Some of these Meitei extremist groups maintain camps in Bangladesh and Myanmar.
6. National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)	(i) NLFT is operating in Tripura.
	(ii) NLFT is known to have camps in Bangladesh.
7. All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)	(i) ATTF operates in Triputra.
	(ii) ATTF is known to have camps in Bangladesh.
8. Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC)	(i) Active in Meghalaya.
	(ii) HNLC is known to maintain camps in Bangladesh.

Civilian Awards on The Occasion of Republicc Day

2750. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND
DR. RANBIR SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for announcing civilian awards on the occasion of the Republic Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof with circumstances leading to such a decision;

(c) whether any criterion for selection of candidates for conferring of civilian awards has been prescribed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with name of Agency where the name of candidates are to be suggested for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The Government had constituted a High Level Review Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Vice-President of India, to go into the guidelines for the Padma Awards and certain other aspects. The recommendations of the High Level Review Committee have been accepted by the Government. One of the recommendations of the High Level